

Recycling and Refuse Management Committee
Minutes from 9/3/09 meeting

Present: Meg Vickery, Chair; Sterling Bush; John Root; Greg Keochakian; Lucy McMurrer.

July minutes approved with no changes.

Updates

Meg announced that the Sustainable Energy Fair is cancelled for this year. Next year the SEF will be merged with the Earth Day and Arbor Day celebrations on April 24.

Styrofoam Ban

Lucy will get a copy of the RRMC Styrofoam ban to the town's attorney. When comments are received, she will share them with the committee.

School Composting

Meg contacted the custodians at the elementary schools that compost to find out how composting is going. The committee asked how can we support Ricci Mastroianni's efforts at Crocker Farm. Greg said he was seeing Ricci soon and would ask her. Sterling volunteered to go to Wildwood if they need help. Meg will contact custodian Tom Walsh to find out. If help is needed, Sterling will go occasionally.

John Root asked about composting at the high school and middle school. Meg explained the infrastructure there is a challenge. She also said there simply isn't much leftover food, unlike the elementary schools. So instead of having a lot of composting there, it was more a recycling effort. However, Meg said, she would email Geoff Friedman at the high school to find out how the recycling is going and if he needs any support.

New News

Meg passed around extra copies of the Annual Report (she also emailed copies to the committee) and discussed this year's events and achievements (such as recycling at elementary schools). Sterling suggested changes to the Transfer Station book shed roof section but since those activities concluded after the end of the fiscal year, they will be included in the next Annual Report.

We discussed writing letters to the Friends of the Jones and the First Baptist Church to thank them for their help towards the book shed roof. Meg will type up those letters, let committee members know when they're ready, and people will swing by the DPW to sign them. Sterling will get a plaque for the book shed to recognize the help of those two groups.

A question was raised about money received from the Friends of the Jones to go for the Transfer Station book shed roof repairs. Jerry Gates and the First Baptist Church donated enough money to repair the book shed in its entirety. However, the FOJ money was given with the express desire to repair the book shed roof, and was not designated for anything else. Meg will discuss with Guilford what to do with the leftover FOJ money.

The committee signed a letter to Adrie Lester thanking her for her work on the committee.

Meg asked if things were going the way we want them to go in Susan's absence? Should we just work on tweaking the programs we have going as opposed to trying to add new stuff?

At that point discussion moved to Greg perhaps visiting UMass and Sterling visiting UVM to see how they handle composting. John then asked if we wanted to propose a "Zero Waste Policy" to the town. Greg asked what the town is actually capable of. Given our resources, could we even attain something like zero waste? Meg said that eliminating all cans and bottles is harder than recycling 100% of all cans and bottles, which might be more achievable. Greg asked about having smaller dumpsters at schools, which might increase recycling. If recycling and composting became part of a job performance issue, it might be more successful. Sterling said she'd ask Eric, one of the town employees who picks up waste, about this and will get back to the committee.

Meeting adjourned 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucy McMurrer